IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below. Claims 1, 6, 12, 18, 19, and 24 are amended herein. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said step a) further comprises the steps of~~ A method of forming laterally segmented face electrodes for a flat panel display spacer comprising:

a) defining a length for said electrodes, wherein said length is effective for minimizing zero current shift, wherein said defining a length for said electrodes comprises:

a1) determining a value for change in zero current shift from fluctuation in resistance of said spacer;

a2) determining a value for change in zero current shift from misalignment;

a3) combining said value determined in said ~~step~~ a1) and said value determined in said ~~step~~ a2) into a total zero current shift value; ~~and~~

a4) taking a root summed square of said total zero current shift value; and

~~a4)~~ a5) differentiating said root summed square of said total zero current value with respect to length to determine the length for minimum zero current shift variation; and

b) fabricating said face electrodes of said length.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein said ~~step~~ b) further comprises ~~the steps of~~:

b1) forming a lift-off layer over a sheet of material constituting said spacer;

b2) masking said lift-off layer;

b3) removing a portion of said lift-off layer not masked;

b4) removing the mask;

b5) depositing an electrode layer over remaining material of the lift-off layer and over uncovered material of the sheet of spacer material; and

b6) removing the remaining material of the lift-off layer to remove overlying material of the electrode layer.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 3, wherein said ~~step~~ b2) further comprises templating to form said electrode segments at said length defined.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein said ~~step~~ b6) further comprises exposing said electrodes of said length defined.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for achieving low zero current shift for flat panel displays having spacers with laterally segmented face electrodes of a plurality of segments, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) determining a first component of said zero current shift resulting from a nonuniformity in resistivity of said spacers;

b) determining a second component of said zero current shift resulting from misalignment;

c) combining said first component and said second component into a total zero current shift value;

d) differentiating a derivative of said value with respect to length of said electrodes;

e) defining a length for said electrodes by setting said derivative to zero and solving for length; and

f) fabricating each segment of said electrodes accordingly.

7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein said first component comprises a first product, said first product formed by multiplying first multiplicands.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein said first multiplicands ~~are~~ comprise :

a) a first beam sensitivity factor;

b) a value for said nonuniformity of resistivity; and

c) a square root of the reciprocal of the sum of the length of said spacer and a dimension over which the resistance would naturally average by current flow.

9. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein said second component comprises a second product, said second product formed by multiplying second multiplicands.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 9, wherein said second multiplicands ~~are~~ comprise:

a) a second beam deflection sensitivity factor;

b) a measure of tolerance of dicing performed in fabricating said spacer; and

c) the length of said spacer.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for achieving low zero current shift for flat panel displays having spacers with laterally segmented face electrodes comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) determining a first component of said zero current shift resulting from fluctuations in the resistivity of said spacers;

b) determining a second component of said zero current shift resulting from misalignment;

c) combining said first component and said second component into a total zero current shift value;

d) taking a root summed square of said value;

e) differentiating a derivative of said value with respect to length of said electrodes;

f) defining a length for said electrodes, wherein said length ~~is~~ comprises a length at which said derivative is zero; and

g) fabricating said electrodes ~~accordingly~~ according to said length.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method ~~comprising the steps of:~~ for forming a spacer to comprise a main spacer portion and a face electrode which overlies a face of the main spacer portion and is segmented into a plurality of electrode segments wherein said electrodes are (a) spaced apart from opposite first and second ends of the spacer, (b) spaced apart from one another as viewed generally and (c) of a length effective to minimize zero current shift, ~~the forming step~~ comprising:

depositing an electrode layer over a sheet of spacer material; and

selectively removing part of the electrode layer to largely form the electrode segments from the remainder of the electrode material; and

inserting the spacer between a first plate structure and a second plate structure of a flat-panel display such that the first and second ends of the spacer respectively contact the first and second plate structures, wherein an image ~~being~~ is provided on the second plate structure during display operation.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as recited in Claim 14 wherein ~~the~~ said second plate structure emits light to produce the image in response to electrons emitted from the first plate structure.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as recited in Claim 14 further ~~including~~ comprising ~~the step of~~ cutting the sheet of spacer material to form the main spacer portion.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as recited in Claim 14 wherein ~~the~~ said removing ~~step entails~~ comprises using a mask to control where the part of the electrode layer is selectively removed, the remaining electrode segment of a length effective to minimize zero current shift.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as in Claim 17 wherein ~~the~~ said removing ~~step~~ comprises:

masking over ~~the~~ said electrode layer to template an electrode of a length effective to minimize zero current shift; and

removing material of ~~the~~ said electrode layer not covered by the said mask to form an electrode of a length effective to minimize zero current shift.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as in Claim 17 wherein ~~the~~ said removing and depositing ~~steps~~ comprise:

forming a lift-off layer over ~~the~~ said sheets of spacer material;

masking over the lift-off layer with a mask;

removing material of the lift-off layer not covered by the said mask;

removing ~~the~~ said mask;

depositing ~~the~~ said electrode layer over remaining material of the lift-off layer and over uncovered material of the sheet of spacer material; and

removing the remaining material of the said lift-off layer to remove overlying material of ~~the~~ said electrode layer to leave an electrode of a length effective to minimize zero current shift.